

Date: 02/11/2017

ATTN: Connecticut State legislature

Subject: Gun permit fees

It has been brought to my attention the proposed changes for gun permits and background checks. \$400% in permit fee increases and 50% in background checks are unfair and unjust at many levels. They involve both moral and legal.

At the moral level these increases in fees and the fees in general do not account for disabled and fixed income people that really need self-protection and what was something saved up for as long as 6 to 8 months is now completely out of reach. I will use myself as an example to clarify. I have COPD lower leg edema neuropathy in both feet with the associated problems with balance and primary hyper tension along with a host of medicinal side effects that redefine evil. My level of strength is down to 25% or what it was 3 years ago and simple things like climbing stairs or carrying groceries can be a challenge. I am on SS and in the middle of applying for disability and its own challenge to talk about another day. My fixed income was 1150 buy now with Medicare fees it went down to 1016.00 per month. I have to raise another 1000.00 a month to just break even living month to month and stressing about the next the minute the current bills paid. It is a miserable way to live but out of choices.

This brings up the second issue on the moral side, the ability of people in my situation or low income in general to protect themselves and loved ones. How can you even attach a price tag on personal protect to the point only the wealthy can afford to protect themselves? I suspect there is no one here on the state side has the slightest idea what it is like to live on 1500 to 2000 a month wondering how next month will be paid for. Low income people deserve to be able to protect themselves as well as disabled. Old and disabled means we are too old to fight and too tired to run. It can be argued there are the police but the response time ends that conversation very fast. It can vary from 5 to 40 minutes depending on where you live and for a disabled person all they will need is a body bag. This is just not practical and will leave it there on the moral side for all to consider, and wonder how my Constitutional rights becomes a CT cash cow.

The legal side.

"No state shall convert a liberty into a license, and charge a fee therefore." (Murdock v. Pennsylvania, 319 U.S. 105)

"If the State converts a right (liberty) into a privilege, the citizen can ignore the license and fee and engage in the right (liberty) with impunity." (Shuttlesworth v. City of Birmingham, Alabama, 373 U.S. 262)

As a US citizen I was promised certain things. The most important being if I obey the laws and cause no undue problems I am entitled to all the rights granted to me by the Constitution and the Bill of Rights and I have held up my end for 65 years. Your turn to follow your oath to office

The second amendment in the Bill of Rights is very clear with the words 'shall not be infringed'. Turning a liberty into a privilege is the first offense. Raising the cost so only wealthy can afford it is not pardonable. We the taxpayers will remember all of you and will demand a voice vote so no hiding and will vote accordingly. I suggest the state dream up a profit center that talks about trust fund exemptions unless too close to home before punishing the working and disabled poor.

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